

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HAVANA 01729 232107Z
ACTION NODS-00

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C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 1729

NODIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR PINS CARR CASC CU (JACKSON, EVERETT)
SUBJ: W/W-ARRESTS: VISIT TO POLITICAL PRISONER EVERETT JACKSON,
21 JUNE

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1. SUMMARY: IN COMPANY OF PRISON DIRECTOR AND MINREX PROTOCOL
OFFICER VALIDO, CONOFF VISITED POLITICAL PRISONER JACKSON AT
COMBINADO DEL ESTE FOR ABOUT AN HOUR.

2. JACKSON LAUNCHED CONVERSATION BY IMPLYING THAT STATE DEPARTMENT
HAD COVERED UP TRUE STORY OF HIS 1967 ARRIVAL IN CUBA AND
CLOSED BY SAYING HE WANTED NO PART OF EXCHANGE FOR LOLITA LEBRON
AND THE OTHER PUERTO RICANS. END SUMMARY

3. ON DECEMBER 29, 1967 JACKSON, THEN FREE LANCE PHOTOGRAPHER,
ARRIVED FROM MIAMI OVER CAYO CADIZ, PINAR DEL RIO PILOTING AN
UNREGISTERED, SELF-OWNED TAYLORCRAFT ONE-ENGINE AIRPLANE WITH
THE IDEA OF PARACHUTING INTO CUBA TO PHOTOGRAPHER PINAR DEL RIO
"MISSILE SITES," AND CUBAN "CONCENTRATION CAMPS" AT LONG DISTANCE,
A PROJECT HE CONCEIVED ON HIS OWN OVER A PERIOD OF SEVERAL
YEARS. ON PLANE HE HAD TELEPHOTO CAMERA EQUIPMENT, FOOD,
WATER, MORPHINE, A CARBINE AND 450 ROUNDS, A LIFE RAFT AND
ORS, FOOU CIA SPANISH LANGUAGE MAPS DATED NOVEMBER 1966,
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PAGE 02 HAVANA 01729 232107Z

U-2 PHOTOGRAPHS OF PINAR DEL RIO ALL WRAPPED AND ATTACHED TO
AN UNMARKED CAMOUFLAGE PARACHUTE LATER ALLEGED BY CUBANS
TO BE CIA EQUIPMENT. JACKSON'S PLAN WAS TO DROP LOAD,
AIM PLANE AT OCEAN WHERE IT WOULD CRASH AND DISAPPEAR
WITHOUT A TRACE, THEN JUMP HIMSELF, COMPLETE HIS SEL-APPOINTED
MISSION THEN STEAL AN AGRICULTURAL PLANE OR HIJACK A FISHING
BOAT AND RETURN TO MIAMI WITH PICTURES. AS HE APPROACHED

CUBAN COAST HE CAME UNDER ANTI AIRCRAFT FIRE FROM SEA AND GROUND POSITION BUT WAS NOT HIT; HE DROPPED EQUIPMENT AND THEN JUMPED HIMSELF, WIND CHANGED, AIRCRAFT CENTER OF GRAVITY SHIFTED, AND IT WENT DOWN ON THE GROUND.

4. JACKSON HID AND WAS FOUND TWO DAYS LATER BY CUBAN ARMY, SENT TO G-2 FOR ONE YEAR AND 33 DAYS OF SOLITARY CONFINEMENT AND INTERROGATION, DURING WHICH HE WAS ACCUSED OF BEING CIA AGENT DROPPING SUPPLIES TO COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY FORCES. HE FINALLY CONFESSED TO COMING TO CUBA DELIBERATELY TO PHOTOGRAPH OLD MISSILE SITES IN PINAR DEL RIO AND WAS CHARGED, TRIED AND CONVICTED TO 30 YEARS AS MERCENARY IN CONTACT WITH SEVERAL MIAMI GROUPS AND CAUGHT IN THE ACT OF FLYING IN SUPPLIES TO BE OPPOSITION ON THEIR BEHALF.

5. HE CLAIMS HE SENT A LETTER TO SWISS WHICH TOLD ALL AND WONDERS WHY HIS STORY NEVER GOT OUT. HE SPECULATES THAT HIS "REPUBLICAN" CONTACTS BECAME DISINTERESTED IN PROJECT AFTER 1968 ELECTIONS WHEN THEY REGAINED THE PRESIDENCY. HE CAREFULLY QUALIFIES STATEMENT TO CLARIFY THAT REPUBLICAN CONTACTS NOT OFFICIALLY CONNECTED WITH PARTY ORGANIZATION BUT RATHER SYMPATHETIC TO ITS POLITICAL BELIEFS. HE SPECULATES THAT IT WAS NOT "CONVENIENT" TO BRING UP MISSILE QUESTION. DURING HIS TRIAL HE MADE DEFINITIVE STATEMENT WHICH SWISS OFFICIAL PRESENT TOOK DOWN METICULOUSLY AND REPORTED TO DEPT. HE IS PERPLEXED THAT DECLARATION NEVER

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HAVANA 01729 232107Z

PUBLISHED IN U.S. PRESS. STATE DEPARTMENT, HE BELIEVES, MUST HAVE HAD SOME SINISTER REASON FOR NOT TELLING ALL. HE SAID THAT MISSILE ISSUE WAS QUOTE REPUBLICAN ISSUE FOR USE AGAINST DEMOCRATS. UNQUOTE.

6. JACKSON THEN CHANGED SUBJECT TO THAT OF CASTRO STATEMENTS PUBLISHED IN CUBA 19 JUNE AND TELEVISED 20 JUNE REGARDING POSSIBLE LUNT/PUERTO RICAN EXCHANGE. HE SAID QUOTE I REFUSE TO BE EXCHANGED FOR THE PUERTO RICANS. I WILL NOT BE EXCHANGED FOR AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO HAVE MADE ATTEMPTS AGAINST THE LIFE OF THE PRESIDENT OR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. IF CASTRO AND U.S. AGREE TO CHANGE FOUR PUERTO RICANS FOR LUNT, TUR AND RODRIGUEZ MORALES, I WILL MAKE NO OBJECTION WHATSOEVER. NOR DO I WANT ANYONE WHO OPPOSES THIS EXCHANGE TO USE ME (MY REFUSAL) AS A VEHICLE FOR THEIR OPPOSITION. I CAME ALONE, I'LL PAY ALONE. UNQUOTE. JACKSON WANTS USG AND GOC TO KNOW THAT HE IS NOT COMPLAINING BECAUSE HE IS IN PRISON. WHEN ASKED, HE DID ADMIT TO WANTING OUT, BUT NOT AS PART OF A PUERTO RICAN "DEAL". HE RESPECTS THE PUERTO RICANS FOR THEIR IDEOLOGICAL BELIEFS. BUT AS AMCIT BELIEVES NOBODY SHOULD ATTEMPT VIOLENCE AGAINST U.S. LEADERS.

7. JACKSON OTHERWISE IN GOOD PHYSICAL HEALTH, STILL ON
SPECIAL DIET, STILL IN YELLOW UNIFORM NOT BECAUSE HE AGREES
WITH THE POLITICALS, BUT BECAUSE HE IS ANTI-COMMUNIST.
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BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

8. ICR PACKAGE DELIVERED. MESSAGE TO MOTHER QUOTE
DEAR MOTHER, I'M FINE, PLEASE WRITE TO ME, SEND ME PHOTOGRAPHS
OF EVERYBODY, INCLUDING MY GRANDSON; AND IF AN EXCHANGE OCCURS
AND I DO NOT RETURN, PLEASE TRY TO UNDERSTAND MY REASONS.
UNQUOTE. END UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 HAVANA 01729 232107Z

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9. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION DEPT OR OTHER AGENCIES
MIGHT HAVE ON JACKSON'S BACKGROUND, ARRIVAL IN CUBA. DOUBT
THAT JACKSON WOULD BE ABLE TO REFUSE TO LEAVE PRISON IF
ORDERED TO DO SO AS PART OF ANY EXCHANGE.

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